

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

47. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the relative number of CD45 low cells in an untreated starting cell population, wherein the starting cell population comprises a CD45 low cell sub-population and a CD45 high sub-population, and wherein the cells of the CD45 low sub-population have a lower relative density of CD45 antigen on their cell surface as compared to the cells of the CD45 high sub-population, and wherein the starting cell population includes committed hemopoietic cells comprising CD45 antigen, which method comprises:

- (i) determining that the starting cell population comprises a CD45 low cell sub-population and a CD45 high sub-population
- (i) contacting the starting cell population with ~~an agent that operably engages said committed cells~~ an agent selected from the group consisting of an antibody to the MHC class I antigen and an antibody to the MHC class II antigen; and
- (ii) incubating the starting cell population with the agent, whereby ~~committed cells that are engaged by said agent such that as a result of the~~ contacting, a treated cell population is produced, in which the number of CD45 low cells is increased relative to the number of CD45 high cells.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the agent engages a receptor by direct engagement or indirect engagement.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47 wherein said incubating is from 2 to 24 hours.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47 wherein the committed cells are non-cancer cells.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47 wherein the committed cells are differentiated cells.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the committed cells are human leukocytes, wherein the human leukocytes are found in peripheral blood, thymus spleen or tonsil tissue, and wherein the leukocytes are selected from the group consisting of lymphocytes, monocytes, polymorphonuclear cells, eosinophils and basophils.

53-54. (Cancel)

55. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~47~~ 54 wherein said MHC class I antigen is a Human-Leukocyte-Associated (HLA) -A receptor, an HLA-B receptor, an HLA-C receptor, an HLA-E receptor, an HLA-F receptor or an HLA-G receptor and said class II antigen is an HLA-DM receptor, an HLA-DP receptor, an HLA-DQ receptor or an HLA-DR receptor.

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 55 wherein ~~the receptor is the MHC class I antigen~~ is an HLA-DR receptor.

57-60. (Cancel)

61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~60~~ 47 wherein the agent is a monoclonal antibody ~~to the receptor~~.

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 61 wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of monoclonal antibody CR3/43 and monoclonal antibody TAL 1B5.

63. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 47 wherein the agent is used in conjunction with ~~a biological response modifier as defined herein~~ an alkylating agent.

64. (Cancel)

65. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 64~~ claim 63 wherein the alkylating agent is or comprises cyclophosphamide.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the committed cells are leukocyte progenitors found in bone marrow.

67-72 (Cancel)

73. (New) The method according to claim 47 wherein the step of determining that the starting cell population comprises a CD45 low cell sub-population and a CD45 high sub-population is performed using flow cytometry.

74. (New) The method according to claim 47 wherein the relative increase in the number of CD45 low cells in the treated cell population, as compared the number of CD45 high cells in the treated cell population, is determined using flow cytometry.